

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 207

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Tennessee artist Olen Littleton Bryant upon receiving the 2007 Governor's Distinguished Artist Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those talented citizens of this State whose creative abilities find outlet and expression through art; and

WHEREAS, one such highly talented and creative Tennessean is Memphis artist Olen Littleton Bryant, who recently received the 2007 Governor's Distinguished Artist; and

WHEREAS, a nationally acclaimed artist, over the course of his career Mr. Bryant has contributed to the arts and has helped guide and influence directions, trends, and aesthetic practices within Tennessee's artistic communities; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional artist is also an art scholar; having studied in renowned art schools all over North America, he earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryant has seen fit to share with others his talent and his expertise as an art instructor at Union University, Austin Peay State University (APSU), and in the Governors Honors program for Wesleyan College in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Olen Bryant's work has been the sole subject of exhibitions at the Tennessee Fine Arts Center, Cheekwood, Wisconsin State University, Emory University, Wesleyan College, and several other prestigious venues; and

WHEREAS, his work has also appeared in group exhibitions, and in public and private collections in venues such as the Vanderbilt Art Gallery, the Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences, an International Exhibition in Peru, and the Tennessee State Museum, among many others; and

WHEREAS, described as one of the most unassuming and self-effacing, yet influential and creative spirits to call Tennessee home, Mr. Bryant not only creates and teaches art, he provides for others to do the same; he is a founding member of the Nashville Artists Guild, a developer of the pilot program "Outreach in the Arts" for Montgomery County middle and high schools, and has served as the Director of Programs for gifted children at Wesleyan College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryant's humanitarian nature is perhaps best manifested in his generous and anonymous subsidizing of tuitions for art students with promise at APSU; he has also donated countless works to local and regional charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed professional, Mr. Bryant is a member of the Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, the World Crafts Council, the American Crafts Council, and the Nashville Artists Guild; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Olen Bryant has received the First Place Award in Sculpture at the Mid-South Exhibition at Brooks Memorial, the Heritage Plaque from President Riggs of Austin Peay State University, a Certificate of Recognition for Superior Guidance and Influence by the Cape Coral Garden of the Patriot's National Collegiate Sculpture Awards Contest, and the very first Arts and Heritage Development Council's Lifetime Contribution to the Arts Award; he has also been listed in *Who's Who in American Art*; and

WHEREAS, as he approaches his eightieth birthday, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Olen Littleton Bryant for his dedication to the arts in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Olen Littleton Bryant for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as an artist of singular talent and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.